

# THE SSSK NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

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# Introduction

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

The year has been an eventful one for SSSK, starting with the Street Child World Cup in March, and its ongoing impact through the year. In the summer we received a cheque for £20,000 from the Oxford RAG, and in September a group of half-a-dozen from the St Paul's Boys School ran a half-marathon, raising some £3500.

Such outcomes enable us to continue to support our NGOs consistently, and to be able to undertake some additional funding.

The Autumn term saw all three university branches facing significant challenges in terms of sustainability. The Cambridge branch had become dormant, with nobody to staff a stall at Fresher's Fair. At Edinburgh, the rules about charity groups had changed, and SSSK was reclassified, and had no entry in the Fresher's Societies Guide. At Oxford, the due-to-be president decided at the last moment to take a year out of university (though he remains very committed and involved) so the staffing of the Fresher's Fair stall was only

partial, and there was some confusion at the beginning of term.

The good news is that these problems have been overcome. Everyone really pulled together and resolved all the issues.

At Cambridge, Eloise Haylor (from Oxford) looked after a

**"THE WORK OF THE BRANCHES IS THE CENTRE OF EVERYTHING WE DO, AND THE TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKS FOR ALL THE HARD WORK AND INNOVATIVE THOUGHT THAT GOES INTO ALL THAT HAPPENS"**

Fresher's Fair stall, and the branch is now up and running with enthusiastic leadership from Lucy Wilson and Emma Goodall. At Edinburgh, Izzi Miles is holding the fort, and Yas Rana (from St Paul's) has joined as a Fresher. At Oxford, Bea Natzler and Charanpreet Khaira are organising the programme this year.

Emma Kerr and I looked after a Fresher's Fair stall at the London Universities Student Union, and as a result we have welcomed a new SSSK branch at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The branches in the two schools had successful handovers to new committees, and both are doing well.

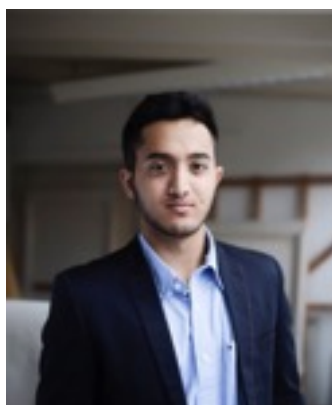
The work of the branches is the centre of everything we do, and the Trustees would like to express their thanks for all the hard work and innovative thought that goes into all that happens.

During December, Arjun Paliwal has been busy reformatting the Branch Information Pack.

Several of the events mentioned above are described in greater detail elsewhere in the Newsletter, together with a visit report about one of our NGOs. There will be a write-up about what happens at the AGM in the next Newsletter.

Gordon Couch  
Trustee

# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



We're excited about the re-launch of the SSSK newsletter following over a year's hiatus. The publication will be used to highlight our continued developments and branch activity, including key events and people who contribute in extraordinary ways.

2014 was an important year for the organisation; students across the country showed determination in continuing SSSK activities through tough circumstances. We're confident that this energy and optimism will be key to developing SSSK and continuing to provide support to those who need it.

Eloise Haylor | Arjun Paliwal  
Editors

## OUR BRANCHES

**ST. PAULS BOYS SCHOOL**

[sps@sssk.org.uk](mailto:sps@sssk.org.uk)

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY**

[cambridge@sssk.org.uk](mailto:cambridge@sssk.org.uk)

**EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY**

[edinburgh@sssk.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@sssk.org.uk)

**LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE**

[lshtm@sssk.org.uk](mailto:lshtm@sssk.org.uk)

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY**

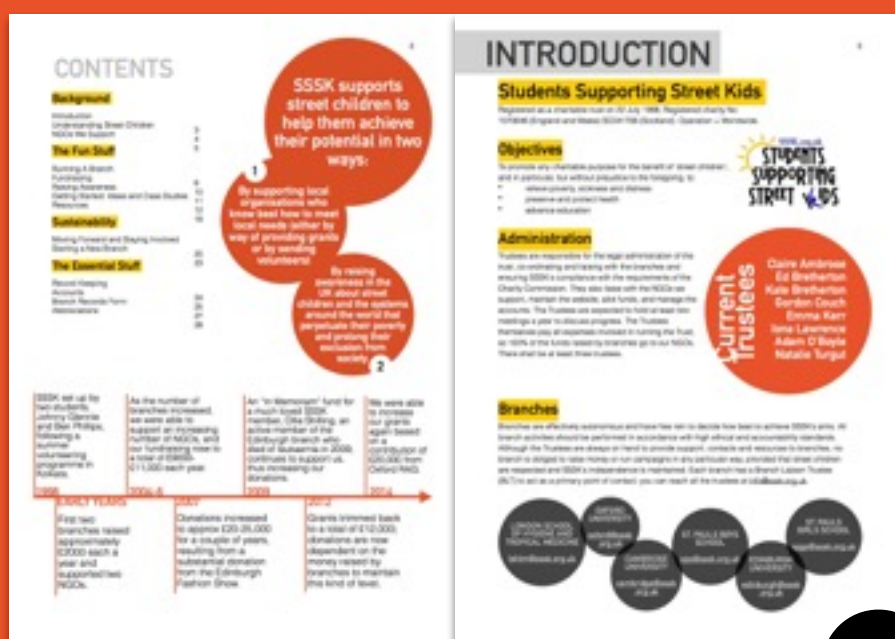
[oxford@sssk.org.uk](mailto:oxford@sssk.org.uk)

**ST. PAULS GIRLS SCHOOL**

[spgs@sssk.org.uk](mailto:spgs@sssk.org.uk)

## A FRESH TAKE

IN 2014 THE SSSK BRANCH INFORMATION PACK WAS REFRESHED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE IT'S INTRODUCTION, WELCOMING A NEW COLOUR SCHEME, NEW FONTS AND UPDATED CONTENT. THIS FACELIFT FOLLOWS THE BRAND NEW FRESHER'S FAIR MATERIAL THAT WAS LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER 2014.



# Featured article

## STREET CHILD WORLD CUP



The site entrance prepared for welcoming the teams as they arrive

### **THE STREET CHILD WORLD CUP (SCWC) IS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT.**

230 former street children, boys and girls, met in Rio at the end of March, to play football, to participate in a festival of arts (with activities almost every day), and to take part in a conference about children's rights (lasting several days).

It's all based around the message "No child should have to live on the streets". Both were supported financially by SSSK, and by volunteers who went and helped to run the events. In Rio we had a fantastic campus where all the children and their leaders, together with the 140 volunteers, were able to sleep on-site (in small

dormitories) and to eat together. We also played nearly all the matches there.

It had all the trappings of the FIFA tournament. There were big Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and at the start of each match, the teams were led out to cheers from supporters in the stands, followed by the two national anthems.



A key message from the children taking part in 2010 and carried through Rio 2014 was 'I am Somebody' informing the Rio 2014 children's declaration that:

- Street children **MUST** be listened to
- Investment must be made in local organisations that can transform these children's lives, and
- Governments must introduce policies that protect street children and support their rights

The first SCWC took place in Durban in 2010, and the second was in Rio.

Each participant was representing both their country, and the other children still sleeping on the streets around the world. Their experiences in Rio clarified and reinforced their role as agents for change. Last time (in 2010) the Philippines team beat Brazil, and it made front page news at home, changing the perception of what it meant to be a street child. It was the first time that an international football team from the Philippines had ever beaten Brazil !

There are a number of videos on the SSSK website, and more on the SCWC one: [www.streetchildworldcup.org](http://www.streetchildworldcup.org).

The girls tournament provided a unique opportunity to highlight the specific challenges that girl's face on the streets. Also to



Brazilian Girl's Team during the playing of their National Anthem

show the world what they can achieve when they get the protection, education, support and opportunities that all children deserve. The volunteers did a wide variety of jobs, including pitch management, stewarding to

**Each team, boys and girls, was organised by an NGO/ charity partner (or partners), working every day with street children in their own country. Team members will continue to be supported as they build a life away from the streets on their return and they will be encouraged to become ambassadors for children's rights.**

guide people when big groups were moving around, working in the admin and communications office, organising the arts projects, and facilitating during the conference. Some worked with particular teams. On one day that whole group went

up to the iconic Rio landmark, the statue of Christ the Redeemer. On other days we all went to the Maracanã stadium, to the Vidigal favela, and to Candelária where eight children who were seeking shelter, were gunned down and killed just over twenty years ago.

This year, just before the tournament, one of the Brazilian team, Rodrigo Kelton, was shot and killed in Fortaleza. He was honoured by his team mates at every match, when they carried his portrait with them.

His story is typical of many others. The local NGO, Pequeno Nazareno, had a long hard battle to show Rodrigo that he could have a future away from street life. In order to be part of the team, he had to attend school and behave himself. It was a challenge that he seemed to relish. The project worked hard to build up Rodrigo's self-esteem. He accepted the challenge, quit drugs and did

not miss any training. He showed great leadership potential. On February 13, Rodrigo and his brother Raphael were walking to their family home when drug traffickers approached them and attacked them. Rodrigo was shot and killed instantly while Raphael was shot twice but survived due to the gun malfunctioning. The reason given was retaliation for a robbery that Rodrigo had allegedly carried out many years before in the territory of the traffickers. His death was used to make an example to his family and the community.

**Real alternatives exist to this**

**violent cycle of street life.**

Around the world the Street Child World Cup is partnering with projects who have developed these alternatives. In Rio 2014 we not only celebrated the game Rodrigo loved, but also presented the challenge of realising the rights and future that these children are entitled to.

**There were some fantastic football games in Rio, extraordinary arts events and a challenging conference.**

It was an enormous privilege to participate.

Gordon Couch  
Trustee

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEX  
MORTON, MALACHY  
McCRUDDEN & WILF WHITTY  
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CHILD WORLD CUP



Games makers overlooking Rio from the mountain top with its iconic statue

# Fundraising

Thanks to a donation of

£20,000

from Oxford RAG, we will be able to fund a Street Worker in Guatemala City for three years

In 2014 the Oxford branch got SSSK elected as one of our Student Union's annual RAG (Raise and Give) charities. RAG organises big uni-wide fundraisers, from sporting tournaments to the Blues Naked calendar, talent shows to 'jail-breaks', the black-tie RAG ball and much more besides. Not only did this lend us a bigger awareness-raising platform than we could ever have achieved on our own, but at the end of the year SSSK received a huge donation of £20,000, thanks to all the efforts of the RAG committee.

Getting elected was no mean feat but has made such a difference. It enabled us, among other things, to fund a Street Worker in Guatemala City for the next three years, through the local organisation Mi Arca.

So below I've tried to sum up how we did it in the hope that other branches will give it a go!

Eloise Haylor

OXFORD

RAG

and how it was done.

# 1

## MAKING SSSK A 'HOUSEHOLD NAME' ON CAMPUS

Running up to the election, we did fundraisers that involved delivery of gifts to hundreds of students: candy canes at Christmas, love hearts on Valentines day, and Lindt bunnies at Easter. We used bmycharity to take 'orders' (see <http://www.bmycharity.com/candycanes> for a template), posted the link alongside some festive YouTube clips to Facebook, and happily sat back watching it snowball and our 'totaliser' whoosh up.

Sounds too easy? Well delivery days are a marathon, quite literally for those doing the round-robin. We would have a massive sit-in in the common room, carefully sorting and labelling each token with a festive message, its to/from, but also crucially with the SSSK logo and website. So, a farcically labour intensive fundraiser, for sure, but all the better for committee team bonding and, in hindsight, probably key to our successful RAG nomination.

Obviously we hoped it would prompt people to actually look up the charity, and decide to support it at any future opportunity... and that it would positively associate us with sweet surprises! However, I think it also turned out to be important because when RAG elections are tight they come down to the cumulative weight of people's second or third choice votes. Those who vote usually do so because there's one charity/category they particularly care about, after that they might just quickly pick the names they feel most familiar or connected with for their second choices. But they all add up!

# 2

## PAMPHLETS, POSTERS AND POSITIVE PRESS REPORTING

Having leaflets and posters in all the colleges/common rooms/bars around election time was an obvious essential.

However, it's important to see if you can raise awareness around the year. Try and get someone on the student newspaper to highlight the charity in an article about development/children/NGOs, or even better write up an event you've recently held for a more diverse readership. We had a double page spread in the lifestyle section of our student paper about a dinner party fundraiser model we were trying to get off the ground. The campaign has much more integrity if you've been on student horizons for more than a few weeks and if it doesn't seem like you just want to 'win'!



# 3

## WE USED ALL OUR NETWORKS

There are so many platforms on which to get the word out and get it shared. YouTube clips, weblinks, and genuinely thought-provoking stats work best, but we knew many people would only make enough time to read the first line, so always thought this through especially carefully. They want to know: What is SSSK? Why is it special? Why does it need their vote?

We learned that no matter how tenuous the acquaintance, people see you have passion for a good cause, and they respect that...so don't hold back!

For example we used:

- Our mailing list from Freshers' Fair
- Our branch and national Facebook pages
- Our Facebook statuses
- Our college JCR Facebook pages
- The mailing lists of charities with similar objectives who weren't running for election this year (student branches of children's or homelessness charities etc...)
- Their Facebook pages
- Our friends' pages
- Our friends' friends pages...

If anyone has any questions or wants more advice, feel free to get in touch at [info@sssk.org.uk](mailto:info@sssk.org.uk).

Eloise Haylor



'Jailbreak' is an example of a RAG event that helped raise £20,000 for SSSK in 2014

## CHILDHOPE ASIA, PHILLIPPINES

My visit to Childhope was most certainly an eye opener. It was my first visit to a SSSK NGO and was an experience that was both heartbreaking and inspiring at the same time. Childhope Asia Philippines is a Manila based organisation, that works to ensure the wellbeing of street children in the major cities all over Metro Manila. According to a 2010 UNICEF report, it was estimated that there are about 250, 000 street children in the Philippines, 45,000-50,000 were classified as highly visible with over 11,000 of these based on the streets of Manila.

I visited the Childhope headquarters on a Saturday, and was ushered into what looked like a huge dining room cum office, where I was introduced to Ms Teresita Silva, the founder of Childhope. Ms Silva was quite visibly passionate about addressing the needs of street children in the Philippines, and has dedicated many years of her life to this cause. The Childhope headquarters is actually Ms Silva's family house, which is now mostly used to run the day-to-day operations of the organisation. We discussed the organisation

and its impact so far, as well as the challenges faced by a small not-for-profit organisation such as themselves.

Childhope provides an accredited alternative education, 5 days a week, and reaches around 1200 street children. This programme enables some to go back into formal education after taking the necessary exams. Others go on to learn a vocation. Street educators and social workers are paired together, to go to teach in the different areas where these children live. The street educator takes the alternative education class, while the social worker is on

hand to address any social or emotional issues the children might be dealing with. Some of the street educators used to be street children themselves.

I was given a tour around the premises and introduced to some street children having a maths lesson. There was a mobile education vehicle, street educators' office, a computer room (sponsored by Dell) and an ambulance within the compound. They also run a programme called RockEd, which is a programme whereby the children can take singing, dancing and music lessons on a Saturday afternoon. After my brief tour, I was



An alternative education session in the house



Where the car park session was held



Some children sleep here under this bridge

taken to observe a street education session in one of the areas in Manila.

This was held in the car park of a church, close to where some of the street children live, along a railway line and under a bridge. There were about 15 children at the session, on a rainy Saturday afternoon. The children were very warm and welcoming and it was obvious that the street educators and social workers had taken the time to gain their trust. The topic covered that day was 'abuse'; how to recognise its various forms and what to do if they found themselves to be victims. The session ended with a game to recap what had been learned, and with a meal.

All in all, my impression of Childhope was a very positive one. It is a small organisation addressing a huge challenge, and making as much of an impact as they possibly can. There is no doubt that they make a huge difference in the life of each child that they are able to help ☺

Yvonne Kerri

## SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

One of the best ways of finding out more about the work of SSSK, and of getting to understand the needs of street children is to go and work for one of the organisations involved. SSSK runs with no overheads, so whilst we can't fund visits, we can help with the crucial task of matching the abilities and adaptability of the volunteer with the needs and resources of the host organisation.

For more information on volunteering opportunities, please visit our website and contact [volunteering@sssk.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@sssk.org.uk).



# ARJUN TRAVELS TO INDIA

During my trip to India in September 2014 I spent a week visiting projects run by The Hope Foundation in Kolkata. In just a few days I was amazed by the work that was being done by the NGO to provide homes, education and a future for hundreds of street-connected children.

One of the homes for boys was a short walk away from the apartment Hope had kindly arranged for me. I, along with two long-term volunteers, visited the home four times during the space of five days. Not only was the project so nearby, but the children were engaging and excited. They had incredible ideas for what they might achieve in the future and were determined to make it happen. Every moment spent in their company was an enriching experience for the three of

us. I learnt so much from their optimism, spirit and strength.

To think that I could help make this possible was motivating. The work SSSK does directly contributes to improving people's lives. Giving children a safe home and providing education is crucial to helping them develop and exit the

viscous cycle of street life. The Hope Foundation are doing an excellent job of achieving this, training children with the life skills they will need to succeed and achieve their potential.

This is what we love to do at SSSK. And I can't wait to do even more.

Arjun Paliwal



The community and positivity was inspiring at the boy's home

**There are many ways in which you can get involved to help SSSK.**

If you're at university or school, you can join or even start a local branch.

You can also join in:

- our campaigning efforts (which means that you will need to be well informed about street child issues)
- fundraising events (which are vital if we are to provide support for our NGOs), and/or
- visiting and volunteering with street child or other development NGOs

**GET  
INVOLVED**

Visit [www.sssk.org.uk](http://www.sssk.org.uk) for more information.